

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

rivalries. The Siamese, unfortunately, practised a
they had learned, to their sorrow, from the Burmese

—
expatriation. To populate their *own* provinces,
depleted
by **warfare**, the Siamese drained Laos of thousands of
its inhabitants.

The **fact** the country became so
much the less desirable to
to them no minor consideration. The Annamites
proceeded
to the principality of **Xieng-Khouang** in
retaliation. Siamese

mainly inspired by the **ideal** of constituting a
great Thai
Empire. Such a policy involved consolidating their
recent conquests
on the left of the Mekong, and creating an
hereditary fief at

Getting hegemony recognized by their
neighbours, notably
the complicated enough without taking
the newly-
arrived French into consideration.

A of invasions by the Chinese Hos was another
factor in the

They came first in 1864, when civil war in
Yunnan drove
the refugees South. **They** came originally in
scattered groups,
but themselves into armed bands which
carried on regu-
lar They plenty of scope for their
activities, since rival
called **upon** their services only too frequently in their

Hie systematic atrocities to which the
Hos sub-
the met with absolutely no resistance from
them. The

at their approach, even from the capital Luang-
Hie **vague** gestures of protection, but
did

their policy of wholesale deportations across
Pavie, to be in Lmang-Prabang at the time¹,
hits left a of tragic exodus and of his
own efforts

to the be-miiddled king. It was due **almost**
entirely to

to herself in Laos's fate and to **ruin—**
at —Siam's dream of a Thai

1883 **treaty** **Hu£,** **her** pre--GccupatIon
 dM **not** the of Slam. Backed by England, who
i **for** **ambitions,** Bangkok redoubled **its**
 to get of **tike** to the seaMe and
of **The** **expedition** was prepared
 De **die** French envoy at **Bangkok,**
 only
 of it the The Court **of Hu£,** though
 feeling none
too **the** Prmeb* was not slow in
 pointing out this
 in in **Loos,** for which France
 was n0w
 * Ct p. *6&